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NEW BOOKS REVIEWED.

FICTION.

WE have already hailed Eden Phillpotts* master, and in taking up a new novel of his one has but to compare it with its predecessor, since there is no other English novelist now living and writing with whom it would be fair to compare him. present novel he is once more upon the moors of Dartmoor. certain freshness and vivid life that he gained from touching a new subject in "The Haven" is absent, but the love of the land and the intimate knowledge of every phase of the earth's surface is here, together with a relentless study of human charac-No single character is as lovable as Ned in "The Haven," though Barbara Hext, sensible, kindly, upright, is admirable. Of the characters the plot turns upon, Phillip Ouldsbroom, violent, unscrupulous, generous, a drunkard and a sort of suspicious peasant Lear; Unity his wife, who married him for money and then deceived him; Henry Birdwood, the discarded lover and afterwards father of her illegitimate child; none are lovable. The best one can say is that the author's faithful realism is profoundly interesting and the slow deterioration of character following upon the initial mistake acutely drawn. Indeed, the author's own idea of morals is not so far removed from that of his own Barbara: "Read Job and steady your mind. Who can tell what's good and what's bad? The thing that looks good often-"

One may fancy at a hasty glance that one has, in the discourses of Maria+ upon her friends, churches, social aspirations, concerts, charities, poetry, etc., a light and amusing volume wherewith to

^{*&}quot;The Thief of Virtue." By Eden Phillpotts. New York: John Lane Company, 1910.

†"According to Maria." By Mrs. John Lane. New York: John Lane Company, 1910.